UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/PRST/1995/16
12 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3515th meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 April 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the escalation of military activities on the Tajik-Afghan border which resulted in grave loss of life. In this context, the Council reminds the parties of their obligations to ensure the safety of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy and all other United Nations personnel.

"The Council strongly believes that armed activities by the Tajik opposition in violation of the cease-fire Agreement of 17 September 1994 (S/1994/1102, annex I) jeopardize the inter-Tajik dialogue and the process of national reconciliation as a whole. Noting also recent violations of the 17 September 1994 Agreement by government forces, the Council calls on the Tajik opposition and the Government of Tajikistan to comply strictly with the obligations they have assumed under that Agreement and calls on the Tajik opposition in particular to extend it for a substantial period beyond 26 April 1995.

"The Council fully supports the appeal of the Secretary-General to the Tajik parties and other countries concerned to exercise restraint, to do their utmost to continue the political dialogue and to hold the next round of talks as soon as possible. It welcomes the agreement by the Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition to the proposal of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to hold an urgent high-level meeting of their representatives in Moscow. It calls upon the countries of the region to discourage any activities that could complicate or hinder the peace process in Tajikistan.

"Reaffirming its resolution 968 (1994) of 16 December 1994, the Council once again urges the parties to reconfirm through concrete steps their commitment to resolve the conflict only through political means. The Council reiterates its call on the parties to hold the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks without delay on the basis as agreed during the previous rounds of consultations."

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